National Interagency Fire Center

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January 12, 2005

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Groups

From: National Multi Agency Coordination Group

Subject: Real-time Observation Monitor and Analysis Network (ROMAN)

Background: ROMAN is a web-based program to display Remote Automatic Weather System (RAWS) National Weather Service (NWS) and other weather observations in both text and graphic formats. ROMAN is unique in providing features such as 24 hour trend monitoring, precipitation summaries, user selectable thresholds for weather monitoring, observations within a radius around wildfires, a prescribed fire, etc. The ROMAN system was developed by the University of Utah under contract to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and plans are to move the servers to the NWS in Salt Lake City for 24/7 operations and maintenance.

Issue: Since early 2002 the Utah State Office, BLM has provided the funding for ROMAN. Additionally, they only agreed to fund the application thru January 2005. Unless other funding could be identified the application would be shut down.

The National Multi Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) received a briefing on January 4, 2005 regarding ROMAN, its field applications, and funding requirements. The group also discussed many of the other weather-related technological applications that the agencies are funding (WIMS, ASCADS, FXNET, MM5). In many cases there appears to be a lack of coordination and integration in the approach to technology and development regarding fuels and weather data programs.

Decision: Members of the group have received significant feedback from users in the field in support of ROMAN. The National Fire Directors will cost share the funding of ROMAN for 2005, for a total of $75,000. This will allow continued operation of ROMAN during 2005 while providing time to evaluate future costs and benefits of the program. The NWCG liaison to the Fire Environment Working Team will ask the NWCG to task the working team to evaluate the entire range of fuels and weather data programs and report back to the NWCG by September 1, 2005. This will include analysis on the importance and ranking priority of programs and potential integration of certain programs. All of these programs are competing for funding during a time of limited budgets and resources. The analysis and recommendations from the Fire Environment Working Team will be critically important in making the right decision with respect to the

continued funding and support of ROMAN. If the decision is to support ROMAN, there will still be a significant amount of work to be done with the Capital Planning Investment Control (CPIC) process and requirements.

/s/ Don Artley
Chair, NMAC